

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 11812 010805Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IO-13 /080 W

-----013995 011226Z /44

R 010710Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF AN INDONESIAN OFFENSIVE IN EAST TIMOR

1. SEPT 1 ISSUE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY INDONESIAN OBSERVER SUMMARIZES REPORT PUBLISHED IN MELBOURNE AGE AND SYDNEY MORNING HERALD AND ATTRIBUTED TO AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES THAT INDOESIANS WOULD WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS INITIATE OFFENSIVE INVOLVING UP TO 15 BATTALIONS AGAINST FRETELIN FORCES IN EAST TIMOR. OBSERVER STATED IT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL INDONESIAN REACTION TO THIS REPORT.

2. NEWSPAPER, WHICH LIKE ITS SISTER INDONESIAN DAILY MERDEKA HAS OFTEN BEEN CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT, QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED "OBSERVERS" AS STATING THAT OFFENSIVE WOULD JEOPARDIZE GOI AMNESTY OFFER AND IMPLICITLY REFUTE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT SECURITY HAS IMPROVED AND THAT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ARE BECOMING MORE TANGIBLE TO THE PEOPLE. NEWSPAPER THEN COMMENTS THAT NEW GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENT FOR EAST TIMOR VISITORS TO OBTAIN SPECIAL DEFENSE AND INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS PERMIT AND REFUSAL TO ALLOW AUSTRALIAN MPS TO VISIT PROVINCE ARE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT SITUATION THERE IS "NOT QUITE NORMAL."

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3. COMMENT: AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION OF THE SIZE MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT WOULD ENTAIL A DEFINITE CHANGE IN MILITARY TACTICS OF PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BUT NOT NECESSARILY AN INCREASE IN FORCES PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO THE AREA. AS OBSERVER POINTS OUT, TIMING WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE AT ALL POLITICALLY PROPITIOUS. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIAN OFFICIALS IN WEST TIMOR HAVE

RECENTLY SPOKEN OF FRETILIN PLANS TO AMASS THEIR FORCES FOR
AN ATTENTION-GETTING FORAY ON EVE OF UNGA CONSIDERATION OF
EAST TIMOR ISSUE. AUSTRALIANS SPECULATE THAT INDONESIANS
MAY WISH TAKE PREEMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST FORCES BELIEVED TO
BE ASSEMBLING FOR THE OPERATION, WHICH SHOULD
CONSTITUTE MUCH BETTER TARGET THAN SCATTERED FRETILIN
POCKETS HAVE HERETOFORE OFFERED.
RIVES

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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